

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 209151

NESCO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, SEDU, UNESCO

SUBJECT: U.S. REPORT TO UNESCO ON TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION

1. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CIRCULAR LETTER  
CL/2501 DATED 5 APRIL 1976 WHICH CITED 18TH GENERAL CON-  
FERENCE RESOLUTION 36. PERMDEL IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT  
FOLLOWING INITIAL SPECIAL REPORT WITH THE SECRETARIAT  
BEFORE DEADLINE OF 26 AUGUST, 1976.

2. IF POSSIBLE, PERMDEL SHOULD OBTAIN CLEARANCE OF  
DR. JOSEPH CASSELLO, USOE WHO IS PRESENTLY IN PARIS FOR  
CONSULTATIONS WITH H. UNTERBRUNNER OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT.  
FYI: SUBJECT REPORT DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO (LAWTON) WITH  
CONCURRENCE IN SUBSTANCE OF C. BUZZELL, ACTING DEPUTY COM-  
MISSIONER FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION, USOE AND  
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DR. T. COTNER, DIE/USOE. END FYI.

3. SPECIAL REPORT:ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN REGARD TO THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

4. THE UNITED STATES FULLY ENDORSES THE PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION AND HAS TAKEN STEPS TO BRING IT "TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUTHORITIES AND BODIES CONCERNED WITH TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION" IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE X, PARAS. 93, 95 AND 98 OF THE REVISED RECOMMENDATION, THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN PRIORITY TO INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BY HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THAT PROVIDED A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES RELATING TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION. HAVING TAKEN THIS INITIATIVE ALSO IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS THAT HAD COME FROM A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES FOUND THAT THE CONFERENCE ENCOURAGED THE CREATION OF A CLIMATE OF OPINION MORE FAVORABLE TO INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH WERE PARTICIPANTS.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WAS CONVENED IN DENVER, COLORADO, JUNE 15-24, 1976, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF UNESCO, AND THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

6. THIRTY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED WITH THE UNITED STATES BY SENDING A TOTAL OF FORTY-FOUR DELEGATES TO THE MEETING. DELEGATES, SELECTED BY THEIR MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, WERE PROFESSIONALS ALREADY SERVING AS ADMINISTRATORS AND EDUCATORS IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES WERE LIKEWISE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AND OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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7. CINTERFOR FROM MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY AND MANY NORTH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED AND CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THE CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS. AMONG THE LATTER WERE THE AMERICAN VOCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, MANY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, THE DENVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT RED ROCKS AND THE WARREN OCCUPATIONAL TECHNICAL

CENTER, ALL OF WHOM HOSTED SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

8. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GEORGE BROWN OF COLORADO AND WILLIAM F. PIERCE, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION, UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION, WELCOMED DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPECTIVELY. MR. PIERCE SPOKE TO THE CONFERENCE ON "SOME ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION."

9. MR. V. R. REDDY OF INDIA WAS ELECTED THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AND DELEGATES, MR. I. I. INWANG OF NIGERIA, MR. MARCOS ORTEGA OF PANAMA AND MR. CLIFFORD RALL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WERE ELECTED VICE CHARMEN. DR. JOSEPH CASSELLO OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MR. EAN WANGAI OF KENYA WERE ELECTED RAPPORTEURS.

10. THE GENERAL THEME CHOSEN FOR THE CONFERENCE WAS "THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT". DELEGATES FROM INDIA AND KENYA AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNESCO, IDB, CINTERFOR AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED PAPERS ON THIS THEME. MANY OF THE PRESENTATIONS OFTEN RELATED TO THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION ALSO. IN ADDITION, FOUR MAJOR TOPICS TAKEN FROM THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION WERE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY IN SMALL, INFORMAL GROUPS. THESE TOPICS CONCERNED POLICY FORMULATION, PLANNING, TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS: METHODS AND MATERIALS, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT.

11. WHILE THE FINAL REPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY PARTICIPANTS, ALL SEEMED TO AGREE THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE WERE FULFILLED IN TERMS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THEIR OWN ASPIRATIONS. THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT FORUM FOR EXCHANGING VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND IT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION. IT WAS ALSO A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT BROADENED THE PERSPECTIVE OF PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDED EACH WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE IN THE FUTURE WITH COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

12. IN CONCLUSION, THE CONFERENCE KINDLED SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OTHER STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO AND ITS SECRETARIAT. THESE THOUGHTS, WHICH WERE TRANSLATED INTO FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE, COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE UNESCO REVISED RECOMMENDATION IF ADOPTED BY THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBER STATES. FIVE OF THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE:

- (1) THAT UNESCO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION;
- (2) THAT UNESCO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO THIS ASPECT OF EDUCATION IN THE ALLOCATION OF THEIR RESOURCES...AND THAT UNESCO SET UP AN INTER-SECTORIAL UNIT WITHIN THE EDUCATION SECTION OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION;
- (3) THAT UNESCO, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES, EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A WORLD-WIDE VOLUNTARY FUND TO ASSIST INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS;
- (4) THAT UNESCO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL CAPABILITY OF ITS REGIONAL OFFICES; AND
- (5) THAT NATIONS DEVELOP ACTION PLANS SPELLING OUT HOW THEY WOULD IMPLEMENT THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION AND THAT SUCH PLANS MIGHT BE PART OF PERIODIC REPORTS WHICH UNESCO

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WOULD DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ITS MEMBER STATES.

13. THE CONFERENCE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO:

- (1) PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO ITS DOCUMENTATION AND MATERIALS ON TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION;
- (2) ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION OR CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO INTERESTED NATIONS WITHIN THE PROBLEM AREAS OF TEACHER TRAINING, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, POLICY FORMULATION AND PLANNING;
- (3) PROVIDING A LIST OF AMERICAN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF EXPERTISE. KISSINGER

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